

KICKAPOO ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICE



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2020 Director's Message

As this year starts, it is always good to look back, make new goals for this year and feel energetic and highly motivated for the work before us. We all passed all the challenges and struggles from the past year and we all learned some positive and negative learning experiences that will lead us to achieve our new goals, work plans effectively for our new journey for this year. Looking forward to continue achieving our overall program goal is to develop a comprehensive environmental protection program for the Kickapoo Tribe in Kansas that will protect the natural, cultural, and human resources.

Progress has been made and we all appreciate all the efforts that we have given to make Kickapoo Environmental Office productive and better place to work with the support of our Program/Project Officers from the Region 7 Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) our Tribal Counsel's Members and Financial Administration Personnel and staff.

Best wishes to you and your families during this new year and as we all look forward to the new opportunities 2020 will bring to us to establish and continue our networking, connection, collaboration and partnership to our neighboring communities and stakeholders.

May this year fill your life with happiness, good health and prosperity. Wish you all an amazing year ahead.

Nestoria Wright



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DOWN TO EARTH

January is National Radon Action Month Test Your Home. Protect Your Health.
(EPA 2020)

During January's National Radon Action Month, the U.S. Surgeon General and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) urge all Americans to protect their health by testing their homes for radon. Radon is a natural radioactive gas that you can't see, smell, or taste but could be present at a dangerous level in your home. As the second leading cause of lung cancer deaths in the U.S. and the first leading cause among non-smokers, radon claims more than 20,000 lives annually. If a high radon level is detected in your home, you can take steps to fix it to protect yourself and your family. For more information about what you can do to protect your health and take action against radon during National Radon Action Month, please visit www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month-information Stakeholder Message As part of your radon outreach activities, you may want to encourage other stakeholders to get involved in efforts to increase radon outreach in January. The following message can be used to promote National Radon Action Month to a wide range of community partners and other radon stakeholders.

Join the Effort to Prevent Lung Cancer Deaths from Radon

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has designated January as National Radon Action Month. In January, communities lead activities and host special events to raise awareness of the health effects of radon exposure, promote testing and mitigation, and advance the use of radon resistant new construction. Join the national outreach efforts today and help prevent thousands of lung cancer deaths from radon! EPA offers free tips and tools to help you plan and implement radon outreach activities in your community.

References:

National Radon Action Month, please visit www.epa.gov/radon/national-radon-action-month information

Special Radon Messages

As you conduct radon outreach throughout the year, consider incorporating messages to test for radon, fix radon problems and build radon resistant homes with other environmental health messages and special events. The following are some examples of seasonal messages you can use at different times of the year:

- February – Protect Your Loved Ones. Test for Radon. (Valentine's Day)
- April – Don't Be Foolish. Test Your Home for Radon. (April Fool's Day)
- May/August – Breathe With Ease. Fix Your Home By Reducing Radon Gas. (Clean Air Month)
- June – Living Green is Healthier. Build Radon-Resistant Homes. (Home Safety Month)
- October – Protect Your Children From Radon. Test Your Home. (Children's Health Month)
- November – Radon is the Leading Cause of Lung Cancer Among Non-Smokers. (Lung Cancer Awareness Month)
- December – Give the Gift of Health. Protect Loved Ones by Reducing Radon in Your Home. (Holiday Season)

DOWN TO EARTH

WATER QUALITY

Since November, The KEO has improved its application of the Clean Water Act (CWA) by reporting to the U.S. E.P.A. the sampling results of the Kickapoo Nation's streams and ponds in a more updated fashion using the Water Quality Exchange Network's Central Data Exchange (CDX) . David Hebert, the Water Quality Coordinator has been reinforcing the foundation of the Tribes' CWA by organizing past reports and protocols, increasing the amount of test sites, and investigating environmental safety issues. For example, there were data and narratives produced in previous years that were not slated correctly but this has been resolved. In addition, five extra stream sites were added to 2020's monitoring plan.

Finally, the results of the fish tissue analysis from 2018 have arrived and results are available below. David understands the urgency to protect the quality of the Kickapoo Nation's water resources and is committed to continuous improvement. Please see below for the results for 2018's Regional Fish Tissue Analysis. These data normally take at least six months to arrive at our office. Results for fish tissue analysis done last summer (2019) should be available towards the end of this year (2020). Please be advised that fish consumption from Adolf's Pond is not recommended at this time due to mercury levels.

PLEASE DO NOT CONSUME FISH CAUGHT FROM ADOLF'S POND UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Kickapoo Environmental Office



LOCATION	PARAMETER	UNITS	RESULTS	DATE
A D O L P H' S P O N D	Avg. Length	mm	340	10/24/2018
	Avg. Length	mm	300	10/24/2018
	Avg. Length	mm	350	10/24/2018
	Avg. Length	mm	345	10/24/2018
	Avg. Length	mm	320	10/24/2018
	Avg. Weight	Grams	430	10/24/2018
	Avg. Weight	Grams	330	10/24/2018
	Avg. Weight	Grams	520	10/24/2018
	Avg. Weight	Grams	550	10/24/2018
	Avg. Weight	Grams	360	10/24/2018
	Fish Species	LM Bass	N/A	10/24/2018
	Fish Species	LM Bass	N/A	10/24/2018
	Fish Species	LM Bass	N/A	10/24/2018
	Fish Species	LM Bass	N/A	10/24/2018
	Fish Species	LM Bass	N/A	10/24/2018
	<u>MERCURY</u>	mg/kg	0.194	10/24/2018
	<u>MERCURY</u>	mg/kg	0.333	10/24/2018
	<u>MERCURY</u>	mg/kg	0.96	10/24/2018
	<u>MERCURY</u>	mg/kg	0.77	10/24/2018
	<u>MERCURY</u>	mg/kg	0.69	10/24/2018

DOWN TO EARTH

WETLANDS UPDATE

Jessica has begun a new project to help shed light on the gap between economist and ecologists when valuing wetlands. Wetlands are an invaluable natural resource to our ecosystem and hold religious significance to our tribal nations, however they are not always treated with respect.

As a result of man-made degradation and destruction, numerous wetlands have been diminished in recent years. Scientists must convey and justify the importance of wetlands to law makers and economists in order to preserve, protect and restore these resources.

The monetary value of environmental assets has become an issue in protecting our ecosystem, regarding laws that would protect wetlands. Wetlands have significant impacts on different aspects of daily life including purifying water, controlling flooding, fertilizing land, and providing sacred ground for tribal nations. Each of these factors have a cascading effect on human health and prosperity that will affect everyone if the divisions between economists and ecologists are left unaddressed. Jessica's study will focus on the struggle between ecologists and economists and call attention to the crucial changes needed in our environmental policy.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

In searching for composting tips, Gardening with Leon always came up and with great suggestions and videos. I encourage you to go to YouTube.com, type in Gardening with Leon to access the videos.

This method was used for people who hate to pull weeds and would like a cheap raised bed garden.

- Leon uses feed tubs or cutting a 55-gallon plastic drum in 2 pieces;
- Using 1-gallon containers filled with water and holes put in two spots of the jugs;
- Leon then puts weed barrier over the jugs and has a 2' PVC pipe sticking out the top of the tub that will fill the jugs with water when you pour it in the pipe;
- Plants get feed more and get more oxygen to make them healthier and produce more crops.

The annual Community Clean-up is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for April 6th through the 11th. This will be the time to get rid of unwanted, bulky items that are too big for normal trash pick-up.

Flyers will be distributed a couple of weeks before the event. Those flyers will be at the tribal office, Trading Post, and Senior Center.

DOWN TO EARTH

GARDEN UPDATE

I am pleased to announce that at the end of October 2019, Kickapoo Tribe was awarded a \$25,000 grant from the Kansas Health Foundation. This grant allows the Tribe to hire a part-time caretaker/gardener, repair and improve the greenhouse, then buy seeds to begin the spring growing season.

Our new caretaker/gardener is Dusty Brown. He has extensive knowledge with greenhouses while living and working in California so we are excited for what he will bring to the table. So far he is mapping out the greenhouse and the 1-acre plot for row crops. He will be purchasing a new plastic to cover the greenhouse and Dusty will need a few volunteers to assist with putting the plastic on.

We are looking into buying and planting perennials to include blueberries, strawberries, elderberries, and grapes.

The bulk of the trees that are located behind the Trading Post will be relocated to the garden area to ensure the trees will hopefully thrive better and produce fruit.

With our brainstorming, the future looks real good for the garden and hoping to add a few chickens and possibly goats for another food source but that will be down the road.

If you have any questions or have suggestions for the garden, please come by the Environmental office and let us know.

Dusty's phone number for the office is (785) 486-2601 x107



Other information about KEO

Email Addresses:

Director □ Nestoria Wright □ kickapoo.nestor@gmail.com

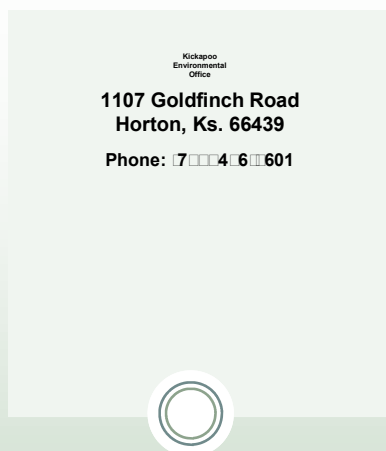
Solid Waste □ Christopher "Sonny" Fee □ christopher.fee@ktiknsn.gov

Water Quality □ David Hebert □ kickapoo.david@gmail.com

Wetlands □ Jessica Raley □ kickapoo.jessica@gmail.com

TRP/Brownfields □ Craig Wahwahsuck □ craig.wahwahsuck@ktiknsn.gov

Air Quality □ Andrea Jones □ kickapoo.andrea@gmail.com



PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

